AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 20 and ending on page 10, line 29, with the following amended paragraph:

In yet another aspect of Applicants' invention, a CSS for providing accurate and timely status indications of authentication certificates issued by issuing CAs includes providing a status of an authentication certificate as indicated by a CRL when the certificate's issuing CA uses CRLs for indicating status. Otherwise, the status as indicated by a cache memory when the cache memory includes a status and a time-to- 25 live data element is not exceeded is provided. If the time-to-live data element is exceeded, the status is cleared from the cache memory, and the status is requested and retrieved using a real-time certificate status reporting protocol when the status is not in the cache memory. At least the certificate's identification, status, and time-to-live data element are added to the cache memory, and the retrieved status is provided.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 4 and ending on page 11, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

When a request is made to the CSS to retrieve a status of a new certificate and the cache memory has reached an allocated buffer size limit, the CSS searches the cache memory for a ~~lasted~~ last-accessed data element indicating an oldest date

and clears the respective cache memory entry; and the CSS then retrieves the requested status, places it in the cache memory, and provides the requested status.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 28 and ending on page 35, line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

If a request is made to the CSS to retrieve certificate status for a new certificate and the issuing CA cache has reached its allocated buffer size limit, the certificate status last-accessed data element may be added to the certificate's status entry in the CSS's issuing CA cache. The CSS searches the issuing CA cache for the ~~latest~~ last-accessed data element with ~~for~~ the oldest date (least-frequently-used) and clears that entry. The CSS then retrieves the requested certificates status, places it in the freed location in the issuing CA cache and reports the status to the system or trusted third-party repository of information objects which acts according to policy.